

What is claimed is:

1. A method for forming a composite extrusion suitable for use as a vehicle weather strip, the method comprising the steps of:
 - providing a thermoset elastomer rubber;
 - extruding said thermoset elastomer rubber to form a weather strip main body member;
 - providing a crosslinkable thermoplastic selected from the group consisting of a crosslinkable ethylene- α -olefin copolymer and a crosslinkable copolymerized ethylene-styrene interpolymer;
 - extruding said crosslinkable thermoplastic to form an abrasion resistant decorative layer;
 - contacting said abrasion resistant decorative layer with said main body member;
 - at least partially crosslinking said crosslinkable thermoplastic;
 - and
 - at least partially curing said thermoset elastomer rubber by heating said main body member to the cure temperature of said thermoset elastomer rubber, thereby forming said composite extrusion.
2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of providing said crosslinkable thermoplastic is performed by providing a moisture crosslinkable ethylene- α -olefin copolymer and the step of at least partially crosslinking said thermoplastic is performed by immersing said abrasion resistant decorative layer in a water or steam bath.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein said moisture crosslinkable ethylene- α -olefin copolymer is a silane grafted ethylene-octene copolymer having a shore A hardness of about 70 to about 98 and a melt flow index of about 0.5 to about 5.0 g/10min.

4. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of providing a crosslinkable thermoplastic is performed by providing a moisture crosslinkable silane-grafted copolymerized ethylene-styrene interpolymer and the step of at least partially crosslinking said thermoplastic is performed by immersing said abrasion resistant decorative layer in a water or steam bath.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein said moisture crosslinkable silane-grafted copolymerized ethylene-styrene interpolymer has a styrene content of from about 30% to about 70% and a melt flow index of about 1.6 g/10 min.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein said moisture crosslinkable silane-grafted copolymerized ethylene-styrene interpolymer has a styrene content of about 40% by weight.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein said thermoset elastomer rubber is an ethylene- α -olefin-diene terpolymer.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein said thermoset elastomer rubber is an EPDM rubber.

9. The method according to claim 7, wherein the step of extruding said main body member from said ethylene- α -olefin-diene terpolymer is performed utilizing an extrusion temperature of about 110°C.

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of extruding said abrasion resistant decorative layer is performed utilizing an extrusion temperature of from about 200°C to about 260°C.

11. The method according to claim 7, wherein the step of at least partially curing said ethylene- α -olefin-diene terpolymer is performed utilizing an extrusion temperature of from about 180°C to about 270°C.

12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the step of at least partially curing said ethylene- α -olefin-diene terpolymer of said main body member is performed by heating said main body member to a temperature of about 200°C, maintaining said main body member at about 200°C for about 15 to 50 seconds, further heating said main body member to a temperature of about 220°C, maintaining said main body member at about 220°C for about 45 to about 2.4 minutes, and then cooling said main body member to a temperature of about 200°C and maintaining said main body member at about 200°C for about 15 to about 50 seconds.

13. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of contacting said abrasion resistant decorative layer with said main body member is performed after said thermoset elastomer rubber is at least partially cured.
14. The method according to claim 1, wherein the steps of extruding said thermoset elastomer rubber and extruding said crosslinkable thermoplastic are performed by simultaneously extruding said thermoset elastomer rubber and said crosslinkable thermoplastic through a common extrusion die.
15. The method according to claim 14, wherein the step of at least partially crosslinking said thermoplastic of said abrasion resistant decorative layer and the step of at least partially curing said thermoset elastomer rubber of said main body member is performed subsequent to the step of simultaneously extruding said thermoset elastomer rubber and said crosslinkable thermoplastic through a common extrusion die.
16. The method according to claim 1, wherein the step of extruding said crosslinkable thermoplastic is performed by extruding said crosslinkable thermoplastic as a sheet member.
17. The method according to claim 16, further comprising a lamination step wherein said sheet member is laminated to said main body member by use of an embossing wheel.

18. The method according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of said abrasion resistant decorative layer is from about 0.1 to about 1.5 mm.

19. The method according to claim 18, wherein the thickness of said abrasion resistant decorative layer is about 0.5 mm.

20. A method for forming a composite extrusion suitable for use as a vehicle weather strip, the method comprising the steps of:

- providing a thermoset elastomer rubber;
- extruding a weather strip main body member from said thermoset elastomer rubber at a temperature about 110°C;
- providing a moisture crosslinkable thermoplastic selected from the group consisting of: a silane grafted ethylene-octene copolymer having a shore A hardness of about 70 to about 98 and a melt flow index of about 0.5 to about 5.0 g/10min and a silane grafted crosslinkable copolymerized ethylene-styrene interpolymer having a styrene content of from about 30% to about 50% and a melt flow index of about 1.6 g/10 min;
- extruding an abrasion resistant decorative layer from said moisture crosslinkable thermoplastic at a temperature of about 200°C to about 260°C having a thickness of about 0.5 millimeters;
- contacting said abrasion resistant decorative layer with said main body member;
- at least partially crosslinking said moisture crosslinkable thermoplastic by exposing it to a water or steam bath at a temperature of about 60°C to about 110°C; and

at least partially curing said thermoset elastomer rubber by heating said main body member to the cure temperature of said thermoset elastomer rubber, thereby forming the composite extrusion.

21. A wear resistant composite extrusion suitable for use as a vehicle weather strip comprising an extruded and at least partially crosslinked thermoplastic abrasion resistant decorative layer, wherein said thermoplastic is selected from the group consisting of a moisture crosslinkable ethylene- α -olefin copolymer and a moisture crosslinkable copolymerized ethylene-styrene interpolymer, bonded to and disposed immediately adjacent an extruded and at least partially crosslinked thermoset elastomer rubber main body member.
22. The composite extrusion according to claim 21, wherein said moisture crosslinkable polyolefin is a silane grafted ethylene-octene copolymer.
23. The composite extrusion according to claim 22, wherein said thermoset elastomer rubber is an EPDM rubber.
24. The composite extrusion according to claim 21, wherein said abrasion resistant decorative layer is a sheet member.
25. The composite extrusion according to claim 24 wherein said sheet member is laminated and bonded to said main body member.

26. The composite extrusion according to claim 21, wherein said thermoset elastomer rubber has been extruded at a temperature of about 110°C, said crosslinked thermoplastic has been extruded at a temperature of 200°C to about 260°C, said crosslinked thermoplastic has been at least partially cured in a steam or water bath maintained at a temperature of from about 60°C to about 110°C, and said thermoset elastomer rubber of said main body member has been at least partially cured at a temperature of from about 180°C to about 270°C.
27. The composite extrusion according to claim 21, wherein the thickness of said abrasion resistant layer is from about 0.1 to about 1.5 mm.
28. The composite extrusion according to claim 27, wherein the thickness of said abrasion resistant layer is about 0.5 mm.
29. A wear resistant composite extrusion suitable for use as a vehicle weather strip comprising an extruded and at least partially crosslinked moisture crosslinkable thermoplastic abrasion resistant decorative layer, said thermoplastic selected from the group consisting of a moisture crosslinkable ethylene- α -olefin copolymer and a moisture crosslinkable copolymerized ethylene-styrene interpolymer, bonded to and disposed immediately adjacent an extruded and at least partially cured thermoset elastomer rubber main body member, wherein said thermoset elastomer rubber has been extruded at a temperature of about 110°C, said crosslinkable thermoplastic has been extruded at a temperature of 200°C

to about 260°C, and said crosslinkable thermoplastic has been at least partially crosslinked in a steam or water bath maintained at a temperature of from about 60°C to about 110°C, and further wherein said abrasion resistant decorative layer is about 0.3 to about 0.7 mm thick.